

REMARKS

In the image pickup apparatus set forth in the claims presented in the foregoing Amendment, there is provided a first read-out mode for reading signals of pixels contained in a first image pickup area through addition of n pixels (n is a natural number), and a second read-out mode for reading signals of pixels contained in a second image pickup area smaller than the first image pickup area, without addition or through addition of m pixels ($m < n$, m is a natural number). Also, the claims require exposure control corresponding to each of the first and second read-out modes, as described, for example, in conjunction with the third embodiment of the Specification.

Applicants respectfully submit that these requirements of each of independent Claims 1, 9, and 10, as well as method Claim 11, are not disclosed in the cited Kinugasa patent, which is the principal rejecting reference, nor in the cited Yokouchi patent. In particular, the Kinugasa patent discloses in Fig. 5 an image pickup apparatus which includes a CCD sensor having an interlace read-out mode (reading out through addition of pixel values) and a zoom read-out mode (reading out without addition) (Columns 6-7). However, Kinugasa does not disclose exposure control corresponding to each of those read-out modes. Moreover, the disclosure of the Yokouchi patent does not overcome this deficiency of Kinugasa as a rejecting reference. Specifically, Yokouchi discloses in Fig. 1 an image pickup apparatus which includes an A/D converter, a processing circuit and an AE and AF control circuit, and discloses an all-pixel read mode

and a thinning-out read mode. However, Yokouchi does not disclose exposure control corresponding to each of those modes. In this context, the reference of Yokouchi's read modes both effect reading from the whole of a pixel area.

For these various reasons Applicants respectfully submit that each of the independent claims, and all of the dependent claims are patentably distinct over the cited references, wherefore the issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance is solicited.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,



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